publication of brochures, joint advertising and brochure support and familiarisation tours of media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers.

The Ministry promotes India as a preferred tourist destination and there is no State-wise allocation of funds. The expenditure on Overseas Promotion and Publicity in the last two years is given below:

1. 2005-06 Rs. 140 Crore

2. 2006-07 Rs. 165 Crore

Package for development of tourism in Sikkim

271. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme as a special package for the development of tourism in the State of Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by Government thereto; and

(c) the details of funds allocated to the State of Sikkim for development of tourism during the last three years and current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for tourism related projects for tourist destinations and circuits including religious place to the North East Region under the following schemes:

(i) Product/Infastructure Development for Destination and Circuits

(ii) Information Technology

(iii) Fairs/Festival/Events

(iv) Large Revenue Generating Projects

(c) Amount sanctioned during the last three years and current financial year to the State of Sikkim is as follows:

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Amount sacntioned
2004-05	655.81
2005-06	2712.89
2006-07	2609.42
2007-08 (till date)	5378.88

Beautification of Durga Hatkoti Mandir in Shimla

272. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has received a representation which was forwarded by the Prime Minister's office in the months of August, 2007 regarding renovation/beautification of Durga Hatkoti Mandir in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh on the pattern of Mata Vaishno Devi Mandir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government will include Durga Hatkoti Mandir in the nation's tourism map as it is a famous and ancient temple in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects under schemes for Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

A project-Integrated Development of Rohru and Chanshal as a tourist destination has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in the year 2006-2007 for a total amount of Rs. 260.00 lakh. One of the components of the project is development of Hatkoti at Shimla in Himachal Pradesh for which Rs. 30.00 lakh has been sanctioned.

Central assistance for Southern Splendour Luxury Train

273. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested her Ministry to sanction Rs. 10 crores as Central Financial assistance for Southern Splendour Luxury Train project under the Large Revenue Generation Scheme;

(b) if so, the latest position in this regard;

(c) the complete details of the scheme; and

(d) the reasons for delay in releasing Central assistance for this project which has been conceptualised by her Department itself?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The project for Southern Splendour Luxury Train submitted by the Andhra Pradesh Government with a project cost of Rs. 40.00 crores has been approved in principle under the Large Revenue Generating Scheme.

However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh have not yet finalized the tie up with the Indian Railways.

New package/scheme for promotion of tourism

†274. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are preparing any new scheme to promote tourism separately during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to provide any separate package to tourism sector in order to promote tourism;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.